



Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

western harvest mouse

Reithrodontomys megalotis

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Mammalia
Order: Rodentia
Family: Muridae

Features

The western harvest mouse has a small (2 3/4 to three inches) body with a red back. The belly hairs are gray with white tips. It has grooved upper incisors. The tail is shorter than the head-body length. The tail is dark on the top and light on the bottom and has very little hair.

Natural History

The western harvest mouse lives in grassy or marshy areas with some taller weeds and brush. It may be more common in areas that are burned regularly. It eats insects, spiders, and grass seeds. It is nocturnal. Mating occurs from March through September. Young are born in a nest made of grass that is situated in other grasses. Litter size is about four. Young are born hairless and with the eyes and ears closed. A young female becomes mature at four months of age.

Habitats

wet prairies and fens